

HYMN COMPETITION 2026
The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland
in conjunction with The Pratt Green Trust

To celebrate the 90TH Anniversary of
The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland,
new hymns are invited on the theme of
‘Ages Past – Years to Come’
and honouring the legacy of
Elizabeth Cosnett
with the opportunity to set a Cosnett text to a new tune.

The competition is open to residents of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, also to members of HSGBI who reside overseas and entries should be in English.

One entry per person is permitted. Select from one of the following categories:

- A Original text to a well-known melody**
- B Original text to an original melody**
- C Original melody to an Elizabeth Cosnett text**

The Judging Panel includes acclaimed hymn writers, composers, compilers of hymnals, members of the Pratt Green Trust and of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

We are pleased to offer a £300 prize for the winning entry in each category, which may be taken as cash or used towards the cost of attending the HSGBI Annual Conference at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick in July 2026, at which the winning entries will be sung.

Please submit your entry by 12 April 2026 via the online form.
The winning entries will be announced on 22 July.
Winners will be notified in confidence before the conference.

There is no fee to enter this competition, but donations will be gratefully received to assist with administrative costs. An opportunity to donate is included on the entry form.

TERMS OF COMPETITION

1. Only one entry per person permitted. For category A, please include the hymn text's metre and the name of the preferred well-known melody or alternatives. For category B or C, please provide both text and music in a format listed under (3).
2. For entries in Category C, you may select a hymn text written by Elizabeth Cosnett. Hymn texts are available through HymnQuest (<https://hymnquest.com/app> or via hymnary.org, or can be found in her collection *Hymns for Everyday Saints* (available from Stainer & Bell).
3. The submitted work must be unpublished and suitable for use in collective worship. Please ensure entries are clear and legible. You may submit a musical score (or melody line) in pdf or jpg form. MP3 recordings are warmly welcomed either in addition to, or instead of a musical score. Texts must still be provided in full. All entries should be submitted as PDFs.
4. Submitted entries should be anonymous so please remove any identifying information from the PDF before submitting. Entrants must provide full name, address, email address and a phone number along with a photo (optional) and a very short (not exceeding 100 words) biography on the covering page.
5. The winning entries will be featured on the Pratt Green Trust website and HSGBI website, with photo(s) and biography of the writer(s)/composer(s), together with a short synopsis of the Judging Panel's comments.
6. Winning entries will be sung at the Hymn Society's 2026 Conference and may be included in a radio broadcast in 2026.
7. Entrants will retain full copyright of their work.
8. The decision of the Judging Panel will be final.

The Pratt Green Trust furthers the cause of excellence in hymnody. Working with others to advance public education in the field, the Trust provides prizes, scholarships and research grants for hymn writers, and supports the work of partner charities and organisations who share our goals and values. We seek a new generation of hymnists, composers and church musicians, committed to the unity and renewal of the Church, with Christ's Living Word at its heart, and prioritising a firm commitment to social justice.

The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland exists to bring together people who are interested in hymns, whether the words or the music, for study, research and fellowship; to promote the discerning use of hymns in Christian worship; and to encourage the development of congregational singing, including through the publication and use of suitable material. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys, sings, plays, chooses, introduces, studies, teaches or writes hymns.

We are guided by UK Data Protection Acts 1996, 2018.
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